

F. M. HUTCHINSON.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

PAPERS RELATING TO A CLAIM OF F. M. HUTCHINSON.

JANUARY 18, 1902.—Referrrd to the Committee on Claims and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 13, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter from the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, dated December 3d ultimo, concerning the claim of F. M. Hutchinson, amounting to \$10 for the value of a skiff destroyed by the towboat *Arethusa*, belonging to the Missouri River Commission. Concurring in the views of the Chief of Engineers, I have the honor to recommend that an item be inserted in the next general deficiency bill for reimbursement of Mr. Hutchinson in the amount claimed.

Very respectfully,

ELIHU ROOT,
Secretary of War.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
UNITED STATES ARMY,
Washington, December 3, 1901.

SIR: On August 14, 1900, the towboat *Arethusa*, belonging to the Missouri River Commission, having in tow one quarter boat and one cabin boat, landed at Missouri City, Mo., to take on supplies. While making this landing in the very narrow channel the tow struck a skiff lying at the landing and broke it up completely. The skiff belonged to Mr. F. M. Hutchinson of Missouri City, and was valued at \$10. Mr. Hutchinson requested payment for the destroyed skiff, and payment was recommended by the president of the Commission, but under the rulings of the Comptroller of the Treasury it could not be made.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Secretary of War, in March last, by Hon. John Dougherty, member of Congress, and in returning the papers to the Secretary of War the Chief of Engineers said:

This claim is undoubtedly just and it is regretted that it can not be ordered paid. Unfortunately, however, it is of the class of claims which, under the decisions of the Comptroller of the Treasury, executive officers have no authority to settle.

It is believed, under such conditions, the only source of relief is through the action of Congress, and it will be the pleasure of this office to bring the matter to the attention of the Secretary of War when Congress convenes in December next, and to recommend that it be laid before that body for such action as will permit payment of the claim.

By indorsement of March 30, 1901, the Assistant Secretary of War requested the Chief of Engineers to resubmit the matter at the proper time for transmission to Congress.

Accordingly, I have the honor to recommend that the matter be brought to the attention of Congress, with request for such legislation as will enable the Department to pay Mr. Hutchinson the sum of \$10 for the destroyed skiff.

I further recommend that Mr. Dougherty be advised of the action taken.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. L. GILLESPIE,

Brig. Gen., Chief of Engineers, U. S. A.

Hon. ELIHU ROOT,

Secretary of War.

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